

Borough of Loughborough.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1908.

LOUGHBOROUGH:

A. CLARKE & SON, PRINTERS, &C., 10, BAXTER GATE.

REPORT.

To the Council of the Borough of Loughborough.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1908.

Area in Statute Acres, 3,045.

Population (Census 1901), 21,508.

„ Estimated to the middle of 1908, 23,841.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 5,519.

Average number of Persons per house, 4·3.

BIRTHS

The total number of births registered was 623 being 44 less than last year, but is 11 above the average of the last ten years, and is an annual birth rate of 26·2 per thousand of the estimated population.

MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered was 345, but 13 of these were of persons not belonging to the Borough, who died at Loughborough Workhouse or Hospital, etc. By subtracting these and adding 4 deaths of Loughborough residents, which occurred outside the Borough, we get the correct number of deaths of residents for the year which is 336, being 41 more than last year, and 14 above the average of the last ten years, and is an annual death rate of 14·0 per thousand.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year is 77, which is 4 less than last year, and 16 below the average of the last 10 years. This continued decrease in Infant Mortality is highly satisfactory.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths from Zymotic diseases including Diarrhoea was 43, which is 30 more than last year, but is 3 below the average of the last 10 years, and is a Zymotic Mortality of 1·8 per thousand. This increased Zymotic Mortality was largely due to summer Diarrhoea and allied disorders, which caused 23 deaths. There were also 2 from Enteric Fever, 4 from Croup and Diphtheria, 7 from Whooping Cough, 3 from Scarlet Fever, and 2 from Measles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified was 79, which is 42 more than last year, but is 126 below the average of the last 10 years.

The number of cases of the several diseases were as follows :—

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	12
Erysipelas	5
Scarlet Fever	36
Enteric Fever	7
Phthisis	19

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Twelve cases of this disease were notified, which is 9 more than last year, and 4 above the average of the last 10 years. With one exception, where two children of the same family were simultaneously affected, all the cases were single ones and appeared to have arisen independently. One case was removed to the Isolation Hospital; in the other cases there were sufficient means of isolation in their homes; 4 deaths occurred from this cause.

ERYSIPELAS

Five cases of this disease were notified, which is 2 less than last year, and 14 below the average of the last 10 years. There was 1 death from this cause.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty-six cases of this disease were notified, which is 24 more than last year, but is 94 below the average of the last 10 years. In three instances the disease spread to one other member of the family; one case (the House Surgeon at the General Hospital) was removed to the Isolation Hospital; all the other cases were isolated in their homes. There were 3 deaths from this disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Seven cases of this disease were notified, which is 2 less than last year, and 13 below the average of the last 10 years. All except one were removed to the Isolation Hospital—the one which was not removed died on the same day it was notified and one of the patients removed to the Hospital also died, the disease being far advanced when the case was notified. On the first day of the year 4 cases were notified in one house in Bath Lane, and this outbreak was traceable to eating diseased meat; of the three other cases, one was referable to local insanitary conditions, and two to drinking impure water outside the town.

PHTHISIS PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 34 cases of this disease which terminated fatally, only 19 of which were voluntarily notified. In every instance where a case was notified, or where a death occurred, the room occupied by the patient was thoroughly disinfected.

MEASLES.

Two deaths occurred from this disease in the first few weeks of the year, they were the last severe cases of the epidemic of 1907. Since then the Borough has been free from this disorder.

DIARRHŒA.

Seventeen deaths were due to this disease, 16 of which were of children under one year. This is 12 more than last year, but is 6 below the average of the last 10 years. This disease is the most potent factor in the production of a high infant mortality—it is a disease of towns, and is produced mainly by heat and moisture, acting on the filth-saturated surface soil of towns, causing the evolution of noxious vapours. Domestic and other sanitation tending to prevent the pollution of the soil are, in my opinion, the best means of preventing this disease.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS.

For this portion of the report I have to express my indebtedness to Mr. Walker, the Borough Surveyor.

Plans Approved :—New Houses	...	...	51
New Shops	...	...	2
Works and Workshops	...	...	3
Temporary Buildings	...	...	16
Alterations and Additions	...	...	18
School Extension	...	...	1
Technical Institute	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	1
Stables and Cart Sheds	...	...	4
New Streets (Total length	588		
yards)	...	...	4

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE.

A great improvement has been effected at the Burleigh Brook Bridge on the north side of Derby Road, the parapet having been rebuilt so as to widen the road at this point by about 8 feet. On the Leicester Road, also, a strip of land has been acquired and added to the highway, thus increasing its width for a distance of some 200 yards to 45 feet. These are improvements which will be appreciated in these days of motor traffic.

The sewer in Park Road has been extended as far as Ling Lane.

A scheme is in hand for dealing with the sewage from The Avenue, Gladstone Street. As the low-lying nature of this street prohibits gravitation of the sewage into the existing sewers a lifting apparatus is proposed to be installed, which will automatically pump the sewage to the required level. The water used for motive power would then be utilized for automatically flushing the Gladstone Street and Toothill Road sewers.

The sewers generally have been regularly flushed and disinfected with the portable flushing van, and periodically cleansed.

The incandescent gas lighting has been extended to nearly all the principal streets, and has proved very effective.

MARKETS AND ESTATES COMMITTEE.

Two fields have been acquired for an extension of the Queen's Park, and a scheme is under consideration for laying them out as Pleasure Grounds. The boundary walls have already been built.

The fixing of a telephonic fire alarm call post in the neighbourhood of Burton Street and Park Road is contemplated.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

At the Sewage Farm, a second Refuse Destructor has been installed and is working satisfactorily.

The centrifugal pumps have been thoroughly overhauled, and their efficiency thereby greatly increased.

An extension has been made to the filter for the bacterial treatment of sewage, the number of sprays having been doubled, and the filter is giving good results.

An inverted syphon has been laid from the Sewage Farm under the bed of the Canal, so as to convey sewage for treatment on the land acquired last year on the opposite side of the Canal.

A scheme is contemplated for a Sanitary Convenience for both sexes in the George Yard.

The Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospitals have been removed to the new site in Ling Lane. Gas and water have been laid on, and the Hospital is being connected by telephone to the Surveyor's Office.

WATER COMMITTEE.

Water Mains have been laid in Bishop Street, Soar Valley Place, Bromhead Street, and Brooks Street.

The Reservoirs and Filters are working satisfactorily. The Watersheds have been regularly patrolled and steps taken to avoid and prevent pollution of the streams yielding our supplies.

RAINFALL FOR 1908.

	<i>Sewage Farm.</i>		<i>Nanpantan.</i>		<i>Blackbrook.</i>
Jan.	·76	...	·94	...	1·12
Feb.	1·13	...	1·27	...	1·53
March	2·62	...	2·84	...	2·78
April	2·51	...	2·70	...	2·99
May	1·72	...	1·81	...	2·14
June	1·46	...	1·37	...	1·81
July	2·68	...	2·67	...	2·79
August	2·59	...	2·90	...	2·95
Sept.	1·42	...	1·49	...	1·95
Oct.	·86	...	·77	...	·73
Nov.	1·27	...	1·27	...	1·85
Dec.	1·46	...	1·85	...	1·41
Total for the Year	20·48	...	21·88	...	24·05

FOOD AND MEAT INSPECTION

On the 9th July, 298 baskets of Strawberries in a decaying condition were seen by me. I condemned them as unfit for the food of man, they were afterwards seen by a Justice of the Peace who ordered that they should be destroyed, which was done accordingly.

On July 16th, a quantity of Cherries exposed for sale were seen by me. I pronounced them as unfit for the food of man, they were afterwards seen by a Justice of the Peace who ordered that they should be destroyed, and this was done accordingly.

On December 15th, Police-Superintendent Agar discovered a quantity of Meat which he considered unsound. He called my attention to it; the Meat was seized as being unwholesome, unsound, and unfit for the food of man; it was subsequently submitted to a Justice of the Peace who ordered it be destroyed, which was done accordingly. Legal proceedings were instituted

against the men who exposed the Meat for sale, a conviction was obtained, and fines amounting in the aggregate to £22 were inflicted. I have to express my thanks to Supt. Agar and my appreciation of the high degree of intelligence which he brought to bear on this case, in the detection, in the first instance, of the bad quality of the Meat, and also in the subsequent prosecution. The Inspector of Nuisances was at this time confined to his bed through illness.

DISINFECTION.

Clothing, Bedding, &c., from infected dwellings are disinfected at the Steam Disinfector. Rooms and houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred are fumigated with Sulphurous Acid Gas, and where necessary the walls are stripped and limewashed. Rooms occupied by phthisical patients are sprayed periodically with Formalin, and when a death occurs from consumption, the room lately occupied by the deceased, and the contents thereof are also thoroughly sprayed with Formalin.

SCAVENGING.

This work is undertaken directly by the Corporation, who contract for horses and drivers only, and the work has been done in a fairly satisfactory manner during the year. The Sanitary Committee have not lost sight of the idea of acquiring horses of their own for this purpose, but have not yet been able to complete their arrangements.

ILLNESS OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

I have to record with regret the resignation of our very able and energetic Inspector, and the more so as the cause was failing health. He was able to superintend Mr. Thomas Hubbard, Isolation Hospital Caretaker, in the discharge of his duties, but on November 1st, he became so ill that he determined to resign. Steps were taken to fill the vacancy, and at the first Meeting of the Council for January a new Inspector was appointed, who will enter on his duties in a few weeks.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Six cases of Enteric Fever were treated here during the year, one case terminated fatally. One case of Diphtheria was also treated here.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Town Council have decided to adopt the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, also Sections 93 and 95 of Part 10, and the necessary steps are being taken to bring these into operation.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The regulations with regard to lighting, ventilating, cleansing, drainage, and water supply to the above have, on the whole, been well observed during the year. I made a systematic inspection of all these places myself, and in six instances I made recommendations for the improvement of the conditions I found existing, all of which were immediately carried out.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

I made a systematic inspection of all these places, and in four instances made recommendations for the improvement of the conditions I found existing, all of which were executed. In all the other cases the regulations were well observed.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Visits have been made, at various hours of day and night, by the Inspector and myself in order to see that these houses are managed in a cleanly and orderly manner, and for the purpose of detecting infectious diseases if any such should exist.

The regulations have been well observed during the year.

SCHOOLS.

In the discharge of my duty as superintending Medical Officer under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, it became my duty to visit all the Schools in the Borough. I also paid several visits in connection with outbreaks of Mumps and Whooping Cough, and always found an excellent standard of ventilation, and general healthiness maintained. It has not been found necessary to close a single School or department of a School during the year.

INSPECTIONS.

Systematic inspections have been made by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and frequent visits have also been made to tailoring and dress-making workrooms to ensure that the Sanitary regulations were observed, and that care is taken against the spread of contagious and infectious disease.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

The total number Workshops in the Borough at the end of the year was 153. There were 377 inspections of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces, and only in three instances was it necessary to send notices as to the improvement of insanitary conditions, which notices were immediately complied with. Lists of outworkers were regularly received from Proprietors of Factories and Workshops.

There were 254 inspections of the homes and premises of outworkers.

Appended is the Sanitary Inspector's Report and a form of report to the Home Office on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. Also tabulated statistics as to population, births, and mortality for the last 10 years; also of infectious diseases notified during the year, and of deaths classified according to diseases and ages; also of deaths of infants under one year, classified according to diseases and ages; copies of which, as well as of this report when printed, will be sent to the Local Government Board, the Home Office, and the Leicestershire County Council.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS CORCORAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Loughborough,
1st February, 1909.*

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

BOROUGH OF LOUGHBOROUGH.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTI- TUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Insti- tutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Insti- tutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births Regis- tered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	20,600	597	29.0	116	194	340	16.5	34	4	...	336	16.3
1899	21,000	628	30.0	84	133	333	15.8	30	12	0	320	15.2
1900	21,400	590	27.6	117	198	409	19.6	37	14	6	401	18.7
1901	21,508	582	27.0	78	197	286	13.3	24	6	2	282	13.0
1902	21,838	533	24.4	90	168	316	14.4	31	13	3	306	14.0
1903	22,170	612	27.6	87	142	318	14.2	27	6	1	313	14.0
1904	22,501	592	26.3	83	140	347	15.3	33	11	1	336	14.8
1905	22,832	644	28.2	93	144	337	14.0	36	18	2	321	14.7
1906	23,163	673	29.0	105	156	337	14.5	51	25	1	313	13.5
1907	23,502	667	28.3	81	121	303	12.8	39	11	3	295	12.5
Averages for years 1898-1907.		612	27.7	93	159	332	15.0	34	12	2	322	14.6
1908	23,841	623	26.2	77	123	345	14.4	49	13	4	336	14.0

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in Acres }
(exclusive of area }
covered by water). } 3,045.

Total population at all ages, 21,508
Number of inhabited houses, 4,702
Average number of persons per house, 4.5

} At Census of
1901



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29743072>

ABSTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS APPENDED TO REPORT.

Infectious diseases notified during the year 1908 :— Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) 12 ; Erysipelas, 5 ; Scarlet Fever, 36 ; Enteric Fever, 7 ; Phthisis, 19 ; total, 79.

Mortality from all causes during the year 1908, at subjoined ages :— Under one year, 77 ; one and under five, 25 ; five and under fifteen, 15 ; fifteen and under twenty-five, 21 ; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 102 ; sixty-five and upwards, 105 ; Deaths in Public Institutions, 49.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1908 :—Under one week, 16 ; 1-2 weeks, 1 ; 2-3 weeks, 3 ; 3-4 weeks, 4 ; Total under one month, 24. 1-2 months, 10 ; 2-3 months, 7 ; 3-4 months, 5 ; 4-5 months, 10 ; 5-6 months, 4 ; 6-7 months, 3 ; 7-8 months, 1 ; 8-9 months, 0 ; 9-10 months, 5 ; 10-11 months, 3 ; 11-12 months, 5 ; Total deaths under one year, 77.

Mortality during the year from subjoined causes :—Measles, 2 ; Scarlet Fever, 3 ; Whooping Cough, 7 ; Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) 4 ; Enteric Fever, 2 ; Diarrhœa, 17 ; Enteritis, 6 ; Puerperal Fever, 1 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) 34 ; other tuberculous disease, 19 ; Cancer, malignant disease, 24 ; Bronchitis, 28 ; Pneumonia, 16 ; Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver, 3 ; Venereal diseases, 1 ; Premature birth, 16 ; Diseases and accidents of parturition, 3 ; Heart diseases, 48 ; Accidents, 12 ; Suicides, 1 ; all other causes, 97 ; total, 345.

Leicestershire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Year 1908.			Loughborough Urban District.		
Complaints	...	...	No. received	...	30
Premises, houses, etc.	...	...	No. inspected	...	405
			Nuisances abated	...	196
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse	...	...	No. inspected	..	None
			Nuisances abated	...	None
Animals, improperly kept	...	...	No. inspected	...	4
			Nuisances abated	...	4
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	...	...	No. inspected	...	78
			‡‡ Nuisances abated	...	78
Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc.	...	...	No. inspected	...	15
			Nuisances abated	...	15
House, or part thereof, overcrowded			No. inspected	...	4
			Nuisances abated	...	4
Smoke nuisances	...	...	No. of observations	...	None
			Nuisances abated	...	None
Offensive accumulations	...	...	No. inspected	...	4
			Nuisances abated	...	4
Other insanitary conditions	...	...	No. inspected	...	4
			Nuisances abated	...	4
Lodging houses	...	...	No. registered	...	4
			No. of inspections	...	49
Slaughter houses	...	...	No. licensed or registered	...	25
			No. of inspections	...	106
Dairymen, cowkeepers, purveyors of milk	...	...	No. registered	..	54
			No. in district	..	54
			No. of inspections of premises		192
Offensive trades (sec. 112 P. Health Act, 1875)	...	...	No. established	...	None
			No. of inspections	...	None
Canal boats	...	...	No. registered	...	18
			No. of inspections	...	11
			No. with infectious diseases on board	...	None
Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	No. houses condemned	...	None
			No. closed	...	None
			No. cleaned and limewashed		72
Housing of Working Classes Act, Part II.	...	...	No. houses condemned	...	1
			No. closed	...	None
			No. made habitable	...	1
Food—seizures of unwholesome...			No. of	...	3

‡‡ Particulars to be given on next Sheet.

			Houses affected with	..	47
			Houses inspected	...	47
			No. of inspections	.	89
			Houses disinfected	...	47
Infectious Diseases	...		Schools	„	1
			Disinfectant used— Sulphurous Acid		
			Lots of clothing disinfected		21
			„ „ destroyed	..	1
*	{	{	New provided...	..	None
			No. repaired	...	2
			No. converted to pails	...	3
			No. converted to W.C.'s	.	1
			†New provided	..	2
			No. converted to W.C.'s	.	None
			†New provided	...	75
			No. supplied with water	..	75
			†New provided	...	5
			No. converted to ashbins	...	None
	{	†New provided	...	12	
		Samples taken for analysis	..	3	
		„ condemned	..	3	
		Wells closed	.	3	
		Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.		None	
		Public supply substituted			
		for well	...	3	
		Cisterns cleansed, repaired,			
		covered	..	1	
		Waste pipes disconnected			
from drain	..	None			
Building Bye-Laws adopted	...	.	...	None	
Total Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	2	
	Convictions...	..	...	2	

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Workshops	...	...	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	154
			No. in which nuisances abated	3
			No. on register	35
Bakehouses	...	...	No. in which nuisances abated	3
			No. on register	35
			No. in which nuisances abated	3
Home-work	...	...	No. of outworkers	206
			No. of houses	206
			No. of infected houses	None
Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc	.	...	.	None
			Convictions	None

THOMAS CORCORAN, *Medical Officer of Health.*

* Being particulars of *Nuisances abated* (††) on previous sheet.

† To include those converted from Privy middens.

Leicestershire County Council.

Supplementary Sheet—Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk. (Milk Sellers)	{				No. in District	...	...	...	54
	{				No. Registered	..	..	...	54
	{				No. of Inspections of Premises			...	192
	{				No. of Inspections during Milking				
	{				Time	...	...	Not registered	
	{				No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing,				
	{				Cleansing, &c.	...	...		3
	{				No. in which requirements of Sanitary				
	{				Authority were carried out		...		3
	{				No. of Premises requiring Structural or				
Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers).	{				Sanitary Improvements	...	...		1
	{				No. in which requirements of Sanitary				
	{				Authority were carried out		...		1
	{				Have Regulations been adopted?		...	Yes	
	{				Premises	No. of.....			
	{				with	No. of, from which water analysed			
	{				Well	Results	{ Good		
	{				Water	of	{ Passable	...	None
	{				Supply	Analysis.	{ Condemned		
	{								

Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers).	}	No. in District	...	...
		No. Inspection of Premises	...	